

HOW
President Lincoln
WON THE BATTLE.



WITH
A Sketch of His Life,
AND A PERTINENT INQUIRY FOR TO-DAY :
Why is Victory Delayed?

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ONE PENNY EACH.

How President Lincoln Won the Battle.

THE darkest days of the American Civil War for President Lincoln and the North were in May and June, 1863. There had been Northern victories in the West, but in the East, in June and July, 1862, the seven days' battles for Richmond had resulted in the retreat of General M'Lellan's Army (Northern) to the James River. Then followed the Confederate victory at Bull Run, on August 30. On September 16-17 General M'Lellan won the battle of Antietam, but did not follow up his victory. He was replaced by General Burnside, who suffered a disastrous defeat at Fredericksburg, on December 13. Then on May 5, 1863, General Hooker, who had taken the place of General Burnside, was defeated at Chancellorsville.

In June General Lee had taken his victorious army of the South into Pennsylvania, and was

THREATENING WASHINGTON

from the north. The Northern Army had made no attempt to stop his progress, and on July 1 General Lee's Army commenced the attack on the Northern Army which stood between the Southern Army and Washington. The battle lasted three days.

These three days were the critical days of the great conflict, and on them hung the fate of 3,000,000 slaves. In Washington they were

DAYS OF PANIC

and of terrible anxiety. If Lee won, Washington would be at his mercy, and slavery established throughout the country. General Lee was defeated on July 3, Washington breathed freely again, and, best of all, the death-knell of slavery was rung.

On the Sunday after the victory Lincoln was asked if he was not anxious during the campaign. He replied "No ; and I will tell you why. In the push of the campaign everybody seemed panic-stricken. No one could tell what was going to happen. I went into my room, locked the doors, and got down on my knees before Almighty God, and prayed to Him mightily for a victory at Gettysburg. I told God that if we were to win the battle He must do it, for I had done all I could. I told Him this was His war and His cause, but we could not stand another Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. And then and there I made a solemn vow to Almighty God, that if He would stand by our boys, I would stand by Him. And after that—I don't know how it was, and I can't explain it, but soon a sweet comfort crept into my soul that things would go right at Gettysburg, and that is why I had no fears."

GENERAL LEE'S BLUNDER.

But how was it General Lee lost this decisive and crucial battle of the war? The answer is: By a military blunder so great that his Generals besought him not to make it. Lee was the ablest strategist of the war. He outclassed all the Northern Generals, including M'Lellan and Grant, but at the battle of Gettysburg he ordered an advance that was so sure of failure that we cannot but recognize the hand of God and the answer to Lincoln's prayer.

On July 1 and 2 Lee drove back the Northern Army near Gettysburg under General Meade, a conscientious commander, but a medium strategist. The result was that the Northern Army was driven by Lee himself into a strong defensive position. The Northern Army took this position, not by strategy, but by chance, or, as we believe, Providence. There was also another chance or Providence. Round Top, as will be seen, lay to the right of Cemetery Hill, and dominated the Northern position. On the morning of July 3 a division of the Northern Army occupied it without any orders. A short time after they were attacked by a Southern division, and were able to

HOLD THE HILL.

If the Southern division had taken and retained the hill, it would have changed the fate of the battle, as the Southern artillery would have

The following diagram will illustrate the position of the two armies :—

Northern Army.



CEMETERY HILL.

GETTYS-
BURG.



ROUND
TOP.

Valley of Death.



PICKETT'S ADVANCE.



Southern Army.



(LOW HILLS.)

enfiladed the whole of the Northern lines.

On that morning General Lee ordered Pickett's division of some thousands of infantry to cross the valley and make a frontal attack on Cemetery Hill, and this against the protests of the other Southern Generals. At one o'clock there was the greatest artillery duel of the war, lasting three hours. Then General Pickett's division advanced across a valley one mile wide to make their heroic but fatal charge. It should have

been supported by the artillery, but through three hours' firing the guns had grown

TOO HOT TO FIRE,

and failed just at the time they were needed most.

As the division advanced shells burst amongst them ; men fell right and left, and then, when they reached the hill they were to take, they were met with a storm of bullets that mowed them down in hundreds, and the survivors leapt over into the Northern lines to surrender.

When General Lee saw the disaster he cried out, " It is my fault ! I only am to blame ! "

THAT CHARGE DECIDED THE WAR.

From that moment the fortunes of the Southern Army declined, until General Lee surrendered at Appomatox in April, 1865.

But can we not see in this the hand of God, Who answered the prayer of His servant, Abraham Lincoln, because the war the North was waging was a war of righteousness, a war for the liberty of the millions of the oppressed slaves who had called on God, Who answered by the devastating scourge of war.

It is admitted now that the whole three days' battle at Gettysburg was a military blunder of the first order. General Longstreet asked Lee to place his army in a position of defence between the Northern Army and Washington, when the

attack would have to be made by the enemy, as at Fredericksburg, where the Northern Army had met with a disastrous defeat.

A PRACTICAL SUGGESTION.

Is there not a lesson for our Government and nation in this? We are fighting a righteous war, a war for the freedom of mankind from a slavery as terrible as any South American or African slavery. Before us still are mighty battles. Would it not be well if our Government and our nation were "to get on our knees before Almighty God and pray mightily to Him" for the victory, and plead with Him that it is His war, and that we have done all that we could? But our men, munitions, and money have not ended the war; and now our only resource is in Him. And God has ten thousand ways in which to answer and to give a sure and lasting victory.

Sketch of President Lincoln's Life.

ON the 12th day of February, 1809, a child was born in a log cabin in Kentucky who was destined to become the ruler of a nation of 30,000,000 of people in the most critical period of its history, and have his name enrolled in the temple of fame as a wise statesman, an eloquent orator, and, above all, the saviour of his country, and emancipator of millions of slaves.

Born in conditions of dire poverty, Abraham Lincoln worked his way upward from backwoodsman, farm labourer, storekeeper, surveyor, lawyer, and legislator to the Presidency of the United States, and to become in that brilliant galaxy a star of the first magnitude.

With only one year's schooling he became a speaker of whom it has been said "no orator of ancient or modern times produced purer rhetoric, more beautiful sentiment, or elegant diction." His speech at the Gettysburg Cemetery and his second inaugural address have become classics of literature. Of the latter the London "Times" claimed that it was the "most sublime state paper of the century."

Abraham Lincoln was a farmer till he reached his twenty-second year, then postmaster, captain in the "Black Hawk" War, and surveyor up to his twenty-fifth year, when he entered on his public career, being elected to the Illinois Legislature in 1834. After this he took up the study of the law, becoming famous throughout Illinois by his broad humour and ability as a pleader. He never took up a case unless he was persuaded his client was in the right, and so he earned the sobriquet of "HONEST OLD ABE."

Lincoln was brought into national fame by the great Douglas-Lincoln debates in 1858. In the fifties a Bill had become law called the "Missouri Compromise," in which slavery was restricted within certain limits.

In 1856 a bill was brought in by Stephen A. Douglas to extend slavery by popular vote into territories as they became States. Lincoln had an intense hatred of slavery. He had seen its horrors in a business trip he made to New Orleans when only a lad, and its iniquity was stamped on his inmost soul. When Douglas stumped the State of Illinois in favour of his bill, Lincoln followed him, and ultimately a series of debates was arranged, in which Lincoln came off the acknowledged victor.

PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC.

These debates were the precursor of the Civil War, leading to the election of Lincoln as President, on which the slave States rebelled, professedly on the ground of the right of a State to secede from the Union, but in reality on the question of the extension of slavery.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at the very height of his fame, on April 14, 1865, a fame which has increased as the years have gone by.

DEPENDENCE ON GOD.

A time of crisis always manifests the inherent weakness or strength of a man. The crisis of the Civil War, in which the conduct lay upon his shoulders, brought out the true greatness of Abraham Lincoln, a greatness which was based upon his faith in God. This enabled him

to stand "foursquare to every wind that blew," whether from friend or foe.

Lincoln's first books were the Bible, "Pilgrim's Progress," and "The Fables of Æsop," and his life was largely influenced by them. When a young man he was for a time led astray by the writings of Tom Paine ; but his letters and speeches prove conclusively that from the hour of his Presidency he placed his dependence on God, and has given an example to all rulers and governors.

PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

In his farewell address at Springfield, when leaving his home for Washington for his inauguration, he said : " A duty devolves on me which is greater, perhaps, than that which has devolved upon any other man since the days of Washington. He would never have succeeded except for the aid of Divine Providence, upon which he at all times relied. I feel that I cannot succeed without the same Divine aid which sustained him, and on the same Almighty Being I place my reliance for support ; and I hope you, my friends, will pray that I may receive that Divine assistance, without which I cannot succeed, but with which success is certain."

Just before his election, speaking to a friend, he said : " I know there is a God, and that He hates slavery and injustice. I see a storm

coming, and I know His hand is in it. If He has a place and a work for me, and I think He has, I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but truth is everything. I know I am right, because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it, and Christ is God. Douglas does not care whether slavery is voted up or down; but God cares, and I care, and

with God's help I shall not fail."

In his second inaugural address he takes up the question which is troubling many in this Great War—why God permitted the war, and why He did not give a speedy victory to the right. In a most striking part of that address he said :

GOD AND THE WAR.

"The Almighty has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offences, for it must needs be that offences come; but woe unto that man by whom the offence cometh.' If we suppose that American slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern any departure from these Divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may

speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn from the lash **SHALL BE PAID** by another drawn from the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, 'The judgments' of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.' "

PRESENT-DAY APPLICATION.

The application of this to the Great War is very plain. Germany is fighting against right, and therefore against God, but God has permitted the war to continue because there are many lessons to be learned by the nations who rightly oppose Germany. While contending that the North was fighting on God's side of the war, Lincoln called for acknowledgment of national sins and prayer. In his thanksgiving address in 1863 he speaks of "humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience."

OUR NEED TO-DAY.

The great need of the nation to-day is the true and sincere acknowledgment of God, manifested in confession, forsaking of sin, and continual prayer both in private and public. Lincoln led the North through the war to victory by prayer. The greatest victories of the North were preceded by believing prayer. This we

have seen connected with Gettysburg. About Vicksburg he said : " I have been praying about Vicksburg, and believe our Heavenly Father is going to give us the victory there too." Lord Roberts, another man of prayer, sent his message to our nation, " This war will be won when the nation is on its knees." May it come speedily.

WHY HAS THE VICTORY NOT COME ?

IN this " Great War " we know that Germany planned and deliberately brought about this unrighteous and wicked War, and therefore as she has " taken the sword " she " shall perish by the sword." This is the Word of Him whose Word will stand when the heavens and earth shall pass away.

GREAT BRITAIN was compelled to enter the War to maintain her pledged word to BELGIUM. She, with the Allies, is on the side of right, and therefore sure of victory in the end.

But as we look back on these awful weeks and months ; as we think of Gallipoli and the fighting in the West, where at the end of three and a half years we have been forced back to the line we held on October, 1914, is there not a great need that we ask,

Why is the Victory Delayed ?

Has there not been a failure in the public acknowledgment of God by the Government and

Nation ? Has not our trust been in the material ? We were to win the war by "silver bullets," men, and munitions ! We have all these, yet we have not finished the War. But God has not forsaken us !

Just at the Time

when Russia failed the Allies, and the burden of the War had come to the breaking point, the United States came in, with its almost unlimited resources. Surely we may say, as Lord Roberts said of the Marne victory, "It is the hand of Almighty God."

Why is it that the Name of God seems to be practically ignored in Government speeches ? Because the Kaiser blasphemously calls upon God to support his wickedness, are we not to call upon His Name to give the victory for the right ?

Why has there not been a call for the Nation to confession of and repentance for national sins ? The people have made

Many Real Sacrifices

which call for thankfulness, but is there not on the part of many a deliberate turning from God ? Think of the licentious and debasing revues ! Think of the theatres and picture houses "rocking with laughter" on the very days when our armies were being driven back, and thousands of our men crying out in agony on the battle-field ! Can you wonder a Canadian soldier wrote back to Canada, "Are these people worth dying for ?"

Look at the attendances at Church services, mission halls, and prayer-meetings ! We hear of queues to the theatres, picture houses, and

public-houses ! Have you ever heard of a queue to that service which is recognized as the public acknowledgment of God, and where His help is implored for our Nation and its Army and Navy ?

We may well pray that the Lord may deliver us

“ From blindness of heart ; from pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy ; from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil ; from hardness of heart and contempt of His Word and Commandment.”

In the meantime, let the thousands who do trust in God, pray and

Intercede with God

that He will give repentance where repentance is needed, and that He will confuse and confound all the strategy and counsels of the enemy, giving the Governments, Generals, and Admirals of the Allies wisdom and guidance, and so bring the War to a speedy end. May He give comfort to all the broken-hearted of the world, and to all the wounded men ! May He impart courage in the hour of battle to all our fighting lads, and, above all, give Eternal Rest and Salvation through faith in “ the Finished Work of Christ ” on the Cross to all passing through the River of Death.

As to the War itself, we can only bow our heads in deep humility and dependence, and say

“ All is of God ! If He but wave His hand—
The mists collect, the rain falls thick and loud,
Till with a smile of light on sea and land,
Lo ! He looks back from the departing cloud.”

J. J. S.

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